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By this Amendment, claims 7, 9-10, 21 and 23-24 are amended, claims 8, 11-12, 22 and 25-26 are cancelled, and claims 28-29 are added. Claims 13 and 27 remain in the application. Thus, claims 7, 9-10, 13, 21, 23-24 and 27-29 are active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In item 5 on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 11 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. This rejection is believed to be moot in view of the cancellation of claims 11-12 and 25-26.

In item 8 on page 4 of the Office Action, claims 7-13 and 21-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Browne et al. (WO 92-22983, hereinafter "Browne") in view of Kikuchi et al. (U.S. 6,577,812, hereinafter "Kikuchi") and further in view of Kawai (U.S. 4,959,735).

Without intending to acquiesce to this rejection, independent claims 7 and 21 have each been amended to more clearly illustrate the marked differences between the present invention and the applied references. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentable over the applied references for the following reasons.

Claims 7 and 21 each recite a remaining recordable time calculation apparatus for calculating a remaining recordable time of a recording medium. The recording medium contains one or more compressed video streams and corresponding management information. The apparatuses of claims 7 and 21 comprise a total time holding unit (means) for holding a total time period for which recording is possible on the recording medium, and a time calculation unit (means) for calculating the remaining recordable.

Further, the apparatuses of claims 7 and 21 comprises a remaining recordable time display unit (means) for displaying a ratio of the remaining recordable time calculated by the time calculating unit (means), to the total time period for which recording is possible in a graphical form. In addition, the apparatuses of claims 7 and 21 comprise a instruction receiving unit (means) for receiving a user selection of a video stream out of the one or more video streams, and a running time display unit (means) for

displaying the running time of the video stream instructed by the instruction receiving means.

Accordingly, the apparatuses of claims 7 and 21 displays two images: (1) a ratio of the remaining recordable time calculated by the time calculating unit (means), to the total time period for which recording is possible in a graphical form (see remaining recordable time display screen 800 in Figure 8); and (2) the running time of the video stream instructed by the instruction receiving unit (means) (see stream display screen 900 in Figure 9).

Claims 7 and 21 each recite that a display screen displayed by the remaining recordable time display unit (means) and a display screen displayed by the running time display unit (means) are switchable.

Thus, by displaying both a remaining recordable time display screen and a stream running time display screen and by allowing the user to switch between these two screens, the apparatuses of claims 7 and 21 enable users to know, at a glance, the ratio of the remaining recordable time and the current use state of a disk, as well as the portion of the allocated area for a particular stream.

However, Browne, Kikuchi and Kawai each fail to disclose or suggest this limitation. Browne merely discloses that a storage allocation screen 305 is displayed to illustrate a current amount of storage versus a total capacity of storage (see Figure 3).

Browne, however, clearly does not disclose or suggest displaying both (1) a calculated ratio of the remaining recordable time to the total time period for which recording is possible in a graphical form, and (2) the running time of a user-selected video stream out of the video streams recorded on the recording medium, as recited in claims 7 and 21. Furthermore, Browne clearly does not disclose display screens (1) and (2) are switchable, as recited in claims 7 and 21.

Similarly, Kikuchi and Kawai each fail to disclose or suggest displaying display screens (1) and (2) and that the display screens (1) and (2) are switchable, as recited in claims 7 and 21.

Therefore, Browne, Kikuchi and Kawai clearly fail to disclose or suggest each and every limitation of claims 7 and 21.

Consequently, no obvious combination of Browne, Kikuchi and Kawai would result in the inventions of claims 7 and 21 since Browne, Kikuchi and Kawai, either individually or in combination, clearly fail to disclose or suggest each and every limitation of claims 7 and 21.

Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 7 and 21 are clearly patentable over Browne, Kikuchi and Kawai.

In addition to the patentability of claims 7 and 21, the Applicants respectfully submit that Browne, Kikuchi and Kawai each fail to disclose or suggest the limitations of claims 9, 23 and 28-29.

Claims 9 and 23 each recite that the running time display unit (means) displays a ratio of the running time of the selected video stream to the total time period for which recording is possible in a graphical form. As a result of this feature, users can know, at a glance, the portion of the allocated area for a particular stream. Browne, Kikuchi and Kawai each fail to disclose or suggest this feature of claims 9 and 23.

New claims 28 and 29 each recite the apparatus of claims 7 and 21 as further comprising a display location obtaining unit (means) for obtaining a display location of the screen displayed by the remaining recordable time display unit (means). As a result of this feature, as shown in step S510 in Figure 10 of the present application, the apparatuses of new claims 28 and 29 display information of the calculated remaining recordable time in a proper location. Browne, Kikuchi and Kawai each fail to disclose or suggest this feature of new claims 28 and 29.

Because of the clear distinctions discussed above, it is submitted that the teachings of Browne, Kikuchi and Kawai clearly do not meet each and every limitation of independent claims 7 and 21.

Furthermore, it is submitted that the clear distinctions are such that a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would not have been motivated to modify Browne, Kikuchi and Kawai in such a manner as to result in, or otherwise render obvious, the present invention as recited in claims 7 and 21.

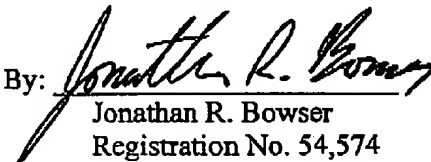
Therefore, it is submitted that the claims 7 and 21, as well as claims 9-10, 13, 23-24 and 27-29 which depend therefrom, are clearly allowable over the prior art as applied by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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November 8, 2006